RSTS-11 SIG DECUS

SEPTEMBER 1977 RSTS-11 SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP NEWSLETTER VOL 4 NO 4 (PART I)

From The SIG Chairman

The schedule for the Fall DECUS Symposium in San Diego from November 28 - December 1 has been set. It is the best and busiest one ever. Particularly exciting to me is the fact that more users are making presentations than at past symposiums. That is the name of the game in DECUS. We need more users helping with the RSTS SIG. I know that it often seems that the same users are always leading SIG activities, but the reason is that not enough users are getting involved with the SIG. The SIG needs your ideas and your time to make them a reality. Won't you come to DECUS and help us make the SIG better.

Special thanks are due Bill Sconce. All he did was travel from Kentucky to Maynard by motorcycle, spend a week planning the Symposium schedule of 40+ RSTS sessions, twist arms to get papers to fill gaps in needed areas, and meet with the DEC RSTS group to get them to present the papers users had requested from them. All this was accomplished with a minimum number of schedule conflicts. Bill is self-employed, so it meant a week without pay for him. He tells me that he feels he has gotten more out of his involvement in the RSTS SIG, than he has put into it. That is why DECUS, a <u>users</u> society, works.

Bob Branton
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The newsletter this time is split into two parts. This first section, being mailed first class, contains information pertinent to DECUS for the San Diego meeting. The second section contains more general information, and will follow by third class mail.

Murray Stinson
Newsletter Editor

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RSTS-11 SIG

Bill Sconce, RSTS SIG Symposia Coordinator
Bob Branton, RSTS SIG Chairman

The Fall DECUS Symposium is going to be an exciting week for RSTS people. There will be both quantity and variety of things to do, from sessions to demos to hospitality suites. The spectra of offerings will follow the growing dimensions of RSTS itself: from commercial to educational; from tutorials for new users to performance analysis; from business planning strategies to applications coding in MACRO. Also, we're again seeing an increase of sessions which relate to RSTS interests, although put on by other groups and product lines. Busy, busy, busy.

In spite of the growth, the Fall DECUS will show the results of increased user control, and of feedback from previous Symposia. There are more users giving papers, better concentrations of the material from DIGITAL, and several sessions scheduled in response to requests from Boston last Spring. Use of handouts will be expanded; timing and flow of the sessions themselves will be more disciplined. We're still learning, of course, and trying to keep up with a burgeoning SIG, but it looks like progress is being made. In any case, the members of the Steering Committee are responsive to being beat on. They will be wandering around throughout the week, and are predictably available around the bar at the Reception.

Well, some highlights are in order. The RSTS product panel will deal with some often requested subjects, including the place of RSTS as a system of related components and its future in the DIGITAL lineup. There will be information on the next release of RSTS ("Version 6C"), including its availability date. (A few features are known now ... known bugs fixed ... autopatch ... some new device support.) It's a "maintenance" release, with only limited enhancements, but that's something the SIG attendees at Boston thought would be very appropriate at this time.

There are several major sessions on subjects declared important last time (most user-led): feedback to DIGITAL; CUSPs (a double session); performance evaluation. Management: setting up commercial time-sharing; decision analysis. OEM software: high-level programming techniques; a new sort. Application histories: micrographics retrieval; general accounting; A/R. For bit-diddlers (again scheduled so as to let rational human beings get away early): design considerations for dynamic priority scheduling; MACRO; non-Basic-Plus default run-time systems.

Finally, there will be late installments on some perennial favorites. Martin Minow will philosophize about the key to RSTS' lovability. The Wishlist -- still growing. (Same old author). Jim Hodges will tell us about what it's really like in the world of Basic-Plus-2 (and DIGITAL will host a tutorial on conversion, too). And because of the favorable reception accorded his Chicago paper not describing how to build a run-time system, Anton Chernoff will give a sequel in San Diego which will not describe how to write device drivers.

See you there.

Late DECUS Schedule Addition

Tuesday, November 29th
8:30 A.M. - 9:00 A.M., Golden West Room
Allan Brown - Airfix Industries

RPL11 - A REPORT GENERATOR FOR RSTS
By T. J. Barnard, Independent
Developed at Airfix Industries LTD UK

This paper describes a report generator for RSTS which generates small (typically 4K) programs which run 3-10 times faster than Basic Plus. It has a powerful high-level language for declaring report formats, and a number of built-in file handlers to deal with most RSTS type and user file structures. In addition it offers the choice of two indexed access methods, one of which handles chained variable length records, the other allowing indexed sequential access with multiple keys and partial key extraction. When both these access methods are combined, RPL can be used as a powerful Data Base Management System.

Decision tables are used to specify record selection and other procedural logic where needed. These are compiled into directly executable PDP 11 instructions by the RPL compiler, and run under the control of the RPL run time system. Equal key compaction for totals only type reports is carried out by the build in sort in RPL, which runs 40 times faster than DEC's XQWIK. We hope yet to better the OMSI sort time of 50 times faster than XQWIK.

Pointers are a feature of the RPL language which allow for variable length record handling and character manipulation. There are equivalent operations in RPL to all the main Basic Plus string functions such as INSTR, CVT##, XLATE, etc. and improved versions of verbs like INPUT, GET, and PUT.

LATE NEWS !

There's to be a machine at San Diego capable of running RSTS, and of copying mag tapes. Tape copying will have to be done during off-hours, and we don't know how much time will be available, but software exchange will at least be possible this DECUS.

Ardoth Wilson, our Library chairperson, will try to make arrangements for a volunteer force to run the copy operation.

HOMEWORK FOR TECHNOLOGY DRIVE WORKSHOP

The Technology Drive Workshop will provide an opportunity for technically competent users to meet with high level personnel from Digital to discuss the application of state-of-the-art technology to provide the functionality necessary to meet the future needs of the users.

For this workshop to be successful, users must come prepared to discuss well thought out ideas. Therefore, to insure success of the meeting, priority during the discussion will be given to users submitting written summaries of their ideas to the chairman before the meeting.

If there are any questions, feel free to contact me:

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M.I.T.
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Middleton, MA 01949
617-245-6600

The large RSTS systems Sub Sig sponsered two useful sessions at Spring DECUS. One was a talk on Performance Measurement and Evaluation and the other was a panel covering System Performance, Decsystem 20, Software Support etc.

Five sessions have been scheduled for fall DECUS (descriptions follow) by the large RSTS Sub Sig. I would appreciate help from anyone in the form of volunteer panel members for the Performance Evaluation panel discussion, ideas on the CUSP workshop, and any other suggestions you might have.

Joan Salkin

Chairman Large RSTS Systems Sub Sig
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PERFORMANCE EVALUATION OF RSTS

This session will begin with a presentation of performance evaluation techniques and results obtained using these techniques under RSTS. It will then become a panel discussion covering such questions as the correct amount of cache to assign, the optimal amount of core to put on a large RSTS system, and other performance related topics.

CUSP WORKSHOP

This workshop will divide the cusps into groups (i.e. Login & Accounting as one group) and a definition of basic requirements for that group will be developed by the users. This information will then be presented to the RSTS cusp development team.

COMPARISON OF RSTS & DEC SYSTEM 20

This presentation will explore the differences between RSTS and the DEC System 20 and discuss the situations where each would be best.

SETTING UP A COMMERCIAL TIMESHARING SERVICE

This session will cover the process of setting up a commercial timesharing service using RSTS. The differences involved in setting up an in-house timesharing system in a large corporation as opposed to setting up an independent timesharing bureau will be discussed along with such topices as user support level, billing procedures, etc.

MANAGEMENT AID FOR PLANNING STRATEGIES (MAPS)

This session will cover the development and marketing of an interactive financial planning package called MAPS.

October 4, 1977

Murray Stinson
Scientific Placement, Inc.
2700 South Post Oak Road/Galleria
Houston, TX 77027

RE: Commercial SUB-SIG

Well, here we go again. DECUS is just around the corner and we thought you might like to know what is in store for the Commercial SUB-SIG session.

Interest has been shown in certain non-computer related commercial areas and in response to this interest Mr. John Morand of COMTECH will talk on contract law. Mr. Moranc is the treasurer and general counsel for COMTECH and his presentation should be most benefical.

Besides this presentation the swap table will be open at the conclusion of the session. For those people preparing handouts be reminded of the large volumes required to satisfy the demand.

A general open discussion will also be held. If you have specific topics that you would like discussed please prepare a note on the topic and present it to the speakers table at the beginning of the session.

We look forward to seeing you all in San Diego.

Commercial SUB-SIG

Stuart M. Katz
(SUB-SIG Chairman)

ea

DESCRIPTION	CONTACT
1.) Subroutines to phonetically code last names/for storage and retrieval via standard phonetic techniques. 2.) Screen generator programs for the Tektronix 4023 buffered CRT terminal. 3.) Complete letter writing system using paragraph/letter files to build custom upper/lower case letters from form paragraphs. System allows insertions as well as a user composed paragraph.	Murray Stinson Scientific Placement, Inc. 2700 South Post Oak, #2430 Houston, Texas 77056 713-621-9811 4/1/77
1.) DATA BOSS/2 - Data Base Management Systems and Applications Monitor. Conversational setup, an English-like Inquiry Language, fast retrieval of millions of records via up to 65 keys. DBMS provides device independence and enables I/O with any ASCII file or device.	John H. Wright Florida Computer Inc. 99 N. W. 183 Street North Miami, Florida 33169 305-652-1710 4/1/77
"FIPS" - Financial Information Processing System. An easy to use computerized accounting system designed by accountants for accountants. Includes general ledger, payroll, payables, cost accounting, financial statements, etc. Features: ● Automatic Interface to General Ledger ● Complete Audit Trail ● Unique Report Formatter ● Company Consolidation and Overhead Budget Analysis	Tim Schroeder or Mike Niernberg Environmental Developers, Inc. 13693 East Iliff Avenue Denver, Colorado 80232 303-758-4619 4/1/77
The Statistical Programs for the Social Sciences/Carleton (SPSS/C) for the PDP-11. It is written in FORTRAN IV and tested under DOS V9, RT-11, and RSTS.	Graham Kimble or Carl Henry Computer Center, Carleton College Northfield, Minnesota 55057 507-645-4431 Ext. 204, 504 4/1/77
RSTS/E OMSI SORT-1 - Fast SORT for Large Files. Machine language SORT Package compatible with DEC BASIC-Plus SORT runs up to 50 times faster than DEC version. Sorts files containing over one million records. Very attractive price with OEM and multiple CPU discounts. Runs on version 6B as normal 16k word user job without software or hardware modifications. Chain out and back or run stand-alone.	OMSI Computing 4015 S. W. Canyon Road Portland, Oregon 97221 503-248-5900 4/1/77
PDP-11 TO /370 2-WAY DATA TRANSFER - Two programs: 1.) RSTS/E V6-B Basic-Plus program to transmit/receive data files to/from IBM/370-158, using BINARY I/O, on a full-duplex line. 2.) IBM VS1 ASSEMBLER program, using BTAM, may be called by COBOL or other /370 languages, to send, receive, rename, or kill files on any PDP-11, connected by dedicated full-duplex line. This system is currently in use in our installation to transmit data files in both directions between our /370-158 and a PDP-11/34 which is 200 miles away, connected by a dedicated line, as well as to our PDP-11/70, which is in the same room, and is connected by another dedicated line. Current transmission rate is 1200 Baud.	I. F. (Bud) Dawson MacMillan Bloedel Limited 1075 West Georgia Street Vancouver, B.C. Canada V6E 3R9 7/1/77

DESCRIPTION	CONTACT
HASPBOX is a communications front-end for RSTS/E. It allows full-duplex data transmission between RSTS and IBM/360/370 mainframes via HASP protocall. The system allows up to 4 input and 4 output streams to be operating concurrently, and also supports a HASP operator's console. The system has hooks into the standard RSTS batch processor and line printer spooler combined with a input Queue system. RSTS-LINK is a communication link for use between one or more RSTS based PDP-11 systems. The link provides a fast, low-cost link between the systems allowing transfer rates of up to 75KB. The link is fast enough for use in a real-time application such as data-base inquiry. The system has hooks into the standard RSTS batch processor and line printer spooler combined with a input Queue system. This link creates a true remote-batch facility for each interconnected RSTS system.	Gerry Moersdorf Software Results Corp. 455 West Seventh Ave. Columbus, Ohio 43201 614-421-2094 10/1/77
BMDP Statistical Programs for the PDP-11. A complete implementation of the February 1976 version of the programs. Twenty-six different programs. Entirely in Fortran and Macro. Developed under RSTS, installation under RSX, LAS, and UNIX is also possible. Distribution includes 2400' tape with complete source code, test data, sample output, and full documentation.	Dr. James Krupp Software Development Inc. Middlebury College P. O. Box 500 Middlebury, Vermont 05753 802-388-7976 10/1/77
1.) TAM, a format-language-driven terminal-handling front-end software module for transaction-processing applications under RSTS/E. 2.) KDSS, a key-to-disk data entry subsystem under RSTS/E. (In both TAM and KDSS, the performance-critical portions are implemented in PDP-11 assembly language and installed under RSTS/E as run-time systems.) 3.) FSORT3, an ultra-fast run-time system capable of sorting up to 16 million blocked records or keys. Record and key formats are compatible with the RSTS-11 Sort package. The FSORT3 package contains modules for replacing SQWIK, MQWIK, and XQWIK. FSORT3 may also be used stand-alone. The package uses about 2% of the CPU time of its BASIC-PLUS counterpart and runs up to 30 times as fast in stand-alone wall time measurements. 4.) INTCOM, a set of BASIC-PLUS programs allowing two RSTS/E systems to communicate, including ASCII file transfer, via telephone line up to 300 baud.	Tom Evans Evans Griffiths and Hart, Inc. 55 Waltham Street Lexington, Massachusetts 02173 10/1/77

EDUCATIONAL USERS:

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SIMULATION & GAMING?

Several people expressed interest in this topic at Spring DECUS in Boston.
A panel is scheduled for Fall DECUS on Thursday, at 9:00 a.m.

IS YOUR SCHOOL DOING ANYTHING IN THIS AREA? _____ YES _____ NO

IF SO, WHAT? (Include language used)

WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE ON THE PANEL? _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

_____

_____

PLEASE RETURN TO:

ARDOTH WILSON
COMPUTER CENTER
CENTRAL STATE UNIVERSITY
EDMOND, OKLAHOMA 73034